

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 25, 2016, the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality (Commission) adopted amendments to Title 11 of the Mississippi Administrative Code, Part 6, Chapter 2, entitled “Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality Regulation for Water Quality Criteria for Intrastate, Interstate, and Coastal Waters.” This action is reflected in Commission Order No. _____.

I. Substance of the Amendment.

In accordance with Section 303(c)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act, States are required to review their surface water quality standards at least once every three years to ensure consistency with federal requirements and to address public concerns. These standards apply to state surface waters such as river, lakes, streams, and estuaries, but do not directly apply to or affect the quality of drinking water or the standards applied to drinking water by the Mississippi State Department of Health. The amendments to these standards include the following: the bacterial indicator for freshwaters has been changed from fecal coliform to e.coli; language has been modified for clarification of pH criteria; definitions of “e. coli” and “enteric pathogens” have been added to the definitions section; “Table 3. Mississippi Surface Water Intakes for Public Water Supply” has been updated to list the Tenn-Tom Waterway intake as “active” instead of “under construction”; and the location description for Turkey Creek was corrected within the water use classification tables to reflect the change in name of the referenced school. The description was changed from “Forest Heights Middle School to Bernard Bayou” to “North Gulfport 8th Grade to Bernard Bayou.”

This notice of final rulemaking is provided pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-43-3.101, et seq., 49-17-25, and 53-9-11.

II. Manner by Which the Public May Comment.

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 49-17-41, within thirty (30) days of the date of the Order, any interested person may request that a hearing be conducted regarding the issuance of this Order. Such request must be made in writing to Mr. Gary C. Rikard, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225.

III. Additional Information.

The recently adopted “Regulations for Water Quality Criteria for Intrastate, Interstate, and Coastal Waters” may be viewed on the MDEQ website at http://www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/WQSB_Water_Quality_Standards?OpenDocument. Any person wishing to obtain additional information on this matter or a copy of the

regulations or the Order reflecting the Commission's action may contact Ms. Kim Caviness-Reardon, P.E., BCEE, of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality at 601 961-5390 or by e-mail at Kim_Caviness-Reardon@deq.state.ms.us. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of persons whom you know will be interested.